Dredging at Gujarat ports

1947. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are planning to dredge the channels of Gujarat Government ports;

(b) the type of infrastructure proposed to be developed at Gujarat ports in comparison to major ports; and

(c) in what way the Gujarat Ports can benefit with inception of maritime policy?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Responsibility for development of Non-Major Ports vests in the respective State Government, *i.e.*, Government of Gujarat in respect of Non-Major Ports in the State of Gujarat. The comprehensive scope of the proposed Maritime Policy is expected to benefit Non-Major Ports also.

Rail-road linkage projects to minor ports

1948. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of rail-road linkage projects pertaining to the minor ports of Gujarat are pending and require preparation and execution of an early implementation plan by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of such projects;

(c) the progress made in respect of these projects during the last three years, year-wise and project-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken during the current year, alongwith the project-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Union Government is responsible for development and maintenance of only National Highways (NHs) and providing NH connectivity to the Major Ports of the country. At present, there is only one Major Port in Gujarat, *i.e.*, Kandla Port which is well connected through National Highway NH-8A. However, some of the projects for augmentation of National Highways in Gujarat, that have been included in the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-III, would also facilitate improved road linkage to some non-Major Ports of Gujarat. These projects are indicated below:–

Project	Status
Kandla-Mundra Port Section of NH-8A	The work for preparation of DPR has been awarded to M/s RITES in the month of July, 2007 and is in progress.
Surat-Hazira Port Section of NH-6	DPR is in progress.